

Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes of 10/6/11

Present: Co-Chairs Juli Brazile, Gordon Jamieson, DPW Assistant Director Teresa DeBenedictis, Peggy Powell, Sustainable Arlington Representative Gail McCormack, Advocate Reporter Jim Haddadin, Secretary Pete Howard

1. Overview of events for 2011-12

Juli reviewed the outreach effort at Town Day. The booth, manned by both DPW staff and volunteers, was busy all day. Recycling bags were eagerly sought & many were distributed. Teresa reported that the Hazardous Waste collection staffed by Arlington went smoothly. There were 301 cars. The collection has been streamlined. Volunteers are not needed. Juli reviewed plans for Community Collection Day 11/19. The BoS will be asked to declare the preceding week Recycling Week. Teresa said vendors are already inquiring. Juli & Gordon agreed that the police presence on Grove St was a big help. The officer should be briefed on which line handles which materials. There was a discussion of electronics collection (to be shredded). Worn out sneaker collection has been discontinued unless we can find a cost effective way to do it. There will be another CCD in May & an ECO Fest in April or May.

2. Short history of recycling and trash rates in Arlington

Gordon described the trash reduction from 19250T/yr 6 yrs ago to the current 14500T/yr. The decrease continues but very slowly. It will be necessary to keep advocating to maintain this level as homes turn over and new people move in.

3. Discussion of possible projects for the year

a. recycling bins at playing fields Teresa said that she will try to get WM to do this collection since the DPW has no good way to avoid commingling trash & recycles. Peggy said a bin is needed at Spy Pond park.

b. publicize e-waste drop off at DPW Teresa said that now that the DPW office is at Grove St, they accept almost all portable electrical stuff "everything w/ a plug".

c. investigate a mattress collection program We will have to find a vendor who can do this for less than the cost of collection & disposal at North Andover. Might also need a place to hold the mattresses until vendor pickup. Gordon to follow up.

d. education and enforcement around existing recycling by-laws: Arlington revised its by-laws to incorporate the state's list of materials that are banned from trash. Our by-law allows the town to fine residents \$20 per incident for including banned materials in their trash, although there has been no enforcement to date.

Arlington by-laws also require the town to offer a curbside recycling program. Gordon stated that when the bylaw was passed there was an immediate drop in trash tonnage. Enforcement would require a part time staff position. Teresa said that there is an open requisition for a part time recycling coordinator.

Perhaps this person could help with enforcement. She will follow up. There are still residents that don't understand single stream.

- e. more composting (coordinating with Sustainable Arlington?)

- f. regional trash collection contracts Teresa said that Arlington is discussing a joint RFP with Lexington. The RFP will have a number of approaches that could be quoted separately including recycling, mechanical collection, and weekly recycling collection.

- g. PAYT Selectman Dan Dunn is working on a proposal to go on the April ballot. Gordon suggested that we offer voters a choice: PAYT or trash bylaw enforcement (\$20 fine per violation). See 3d above.

5. Schedule of future meetings First Thursday of each month.